

April 14th
1979

IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND HONOR FOR ME AS I STAND BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING AS THE ELEVENTH MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PEABODY. IT IS TRULY GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE PLACED YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN ME, I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAINTAIN THAT TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

EIGHT AND ONE HALF MONTHS REMAIN IN MY TERM OF OFFICE AND I DO NOT PROMISE MIRACLES, BUT REST ASSURED A NEW COURSE OF DIRECTION WILL BE SET FOR OUR CITY, WITH A NEW BEGINNING AND A NEW IMAGE.

THERE ARE GREAT CHALLENGES FACING THE OFFICE OF MAYOR AT THIS TIME, MEETING THESE CHALLENGES WILL NOT BE EASY. FROM THE CITY COUNCIL, I ASK COOPERATION EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO DEVELOP A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT INFRINGING UPON EACH OTHERS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. I WILL ALWAYS MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS IDEAS OR PROBLEMS. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, I LOOK FORWARD TO DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH ITS MEMBERS IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS FACING OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

TO THOSE DEDICATED MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MY FULL COOPERATION WILL BE EXTENDED IN THOSE DECISIONS WHICH ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND I AM SERVING NOTICE HERE TODAY TO THOSE WHO DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PHILOSOPHY, THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES.

LAST WEEK I ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF LAWRENCE O'KEEFE AS THE CITY SOLICITOR AND MADELYN WOODLOCK AS MY PERSONAL SECRETARY. BOTH INDIVIDUALS HAVE THE BACKGROUND AND PROVEN ABILITY TO BE GREAT ASSETS TO OUR CITY. I ALSO ANNOUNCED THE PROCEDURE FOR HIRING PAID APPOINTED OFFICIALS. LET ME ASSURE YOU I MEANT WHAT I SAID THAT I INTEND TO PUT TOGETHER THE BEST POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATION. IT IS AN OPEN PROCESS AND THE DETERMINATION AS TO WHO WILL BE SELECTED IS BASED TOTALLY ON ABILITY AND NOT BY POLITICAL MOTIVATION. THIS IS MY FIRST PRIORITY.

IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I WILL SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO CENTRALIZE OUR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES UNDER ONE ROOF AT CITY HALL. THIS PLAN WILL INCLUDE THE CLOSING AND SELLING OF THE WALLIS SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUILDING, AND RELOCATING THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT INTO CITY HALL. THE PLACING OF ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS IN ONE CENTRAL OFFICE WILL NOT ONLY BE MORE ECONOMICAL BUT ALSO BE MORE EFFICIENT.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE, AND THEY WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. I EXPECT THESE PEOPLE TO PROVIDE INPUT, LEADERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING. RUBBER STAMPING RATHER THAN OBJECTIVITY IS OF NO VALUE TO EITHER MY ADMINISTRATION OR TO THE CITY OF PEABODY.

WITH THE DECLINING ENROLLMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN DEVELOPING A WORKABLE CONSOLIDATION PLAN, THAT WILL EFFECT A REDUCTION IN SCHOOL COSTS WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

IN ADDITION TO CONSOLIDATION THERE MUST BE A BROADENING OF OUR TAX BASE, SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO OUR CITIZENS. THE POTENTIAL IS GREAT WITH THE CENTENNIAL INDUSTRIAL PARK AND COMMERCIAL GROWTH, BUT IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT THERE MUST BE A MORE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VARIOUS CITY AGENCIES. I WILL REQUEST A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING BOARD, AND THE BOARD OF APPEALS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WILL BE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF SOLVING OUR DIFFERENCES IN CITY HALL RATHER THAN IN A COURT OF LAW AT EXTRA EXPENSE TO THE TAXPAYERS. I BELIEVE OUR EXISTING ZONING ORDINANCE REQUIRES CHANGES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROPER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

AFTER MEETING WITH THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION, THURSDAY EVENING, I WOULD LIKE TO PUBLICALLY COMMEND THEM FOR DEMONSTRATING THEIR CONCERN FOR THE TAXPAYERS OF PEABODY BY VOTING TO TURN OVER TO THE CITY IN LIEU OF TAXES \$\$\$\$\$\$.

OUR CITY NEEDS GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION IN THE AREA OF PLANNING AND ACQUIRING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS. THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR A CITY PLANNER. I HOPE TO ATTRACT SOMEONE WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE, THUS FILLING THE VOID THAT HAS EXISTED IN THE AREA OF PLANNING.

I AM SERVING NOTICE TODAY AND HAVE ALREADY INSTRUCTED MY CITY SOLICITOR THAT A CONCERTED EFFORT TO RID THE CITY OF THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE CAUSED OUR CITY EMBARRASSMENT AND TARNISHED IT'S IMAGE WILL BE A TOP PRIORITY OF MY ADMINISTRATION.

I REALIZE THE DIFFICULTY THE CITY COUNCIL FACES WITH THE BUDGET BEFORE THEM AND THE UNCERTAINTY OF A TAX CAP. THOUGH IT IS NOT MY BUDGET, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST DURING YOUR DELIBERATIONS AND FINAL PASSAGE THAT YOU RETURN TO ME A WORKABLE BUDGET. I WILL NOT TOLERATE DEFICIT SPENDING AND I AM INFORMING ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS THAT IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW TO SPEND BEYOND THEIR BUDGETS, AND THEY WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

THE COST OF RUNNING GOVERNMENT HAS GROWN A LOT FASTER THAN THE ABILITY OF THE TAXPAYER TO KEEP PACE, THEREFORE I BELIEVE AN ORDERLY STREAMLINING OF GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE PLACE. THE SHORT TERM PROSPECTS FOR TAX RELIEF ARE NOT BRIGHT, BUT MY GOAL IS TO SET A COURSE OF ACTION THAT WILL ENABLE US TO STABILIZE OUR TAX RATE IN THE FUTURE.

I HAVE BEEN ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND I INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF LEADERSHIP THAT WILL MAKE YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR CONCERNS ARE MINE. LEADERSHIP AS I SEE IT DOES NOT MEAN BEING ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE AND MAKING PROMISES I CANNOT FULFILL, RATHER IT MEANS BEING FIRM WHEN NECESSARY BUT ALSO BEING FAIR. IT MEANS MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY RATHER THAN THE INTEREST OF A SELECTED FEW. I AM PREPARED TO PROVIDE THAT TYPE OF LEADERSHIP.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE JACKIE, AND FIVE DAUGHTERS TO EXTEND TO THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE HERE AS WELL AS ALL OTHER CITIZENS OF PEABODY, OUR BEST WISHES IN THIS HOLY SEASON.

